

I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:

1. A medical system architecture comprising:

at least one modality for acquiring an examination image of a subject;

a processing apparatus connected to said modality for processing said examination image;

a storage system for storing said examination image;

a post-processing device for post-processing said examination image;

a communication network operating according to a DICOM standard for exchanging data representing at least said examination image among said processing apparatus, said storage apparatus and said post-processing device;

said processing apparatus having a viewing monitor on which said examination image is displayed; and

a camera having a field of view encompassing said modality for producing at least one still image of said modality, said camera being connected to said processing device and said processing device mixing said at least one still image of said modality into said examination image in a separate window on said viewing monitor.

2. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said camera produces a sequence of still images of said imaging modality.

3. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said post-processing device has a viewing monitor on which said examination image is displayed together with said window containing said at least one still image of said modality.

4. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a camera at said post-processing device having a field of view for producing at least one still image of an environment of said post-processing device, and wherein said processing apparatus mixes said at least one still image of said environment of said post-processing device into said window on the viewing monitor at said processing apparatus, for video conferencing.

5. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said post-processing device is a first post-processing device having a first viewing monitor and a first camera for producing at least one first still image of an environment of said first post-processing device, and wherein said medical system architecture further comprises a second post-processing device connected to said communication network, said second post-processing device having a second viewing monitor and a second camera for producing at least one second still image of an environment of said second post-processing device, said first post-processing device mixing said at least one second still image into a window at said first viewing monitor and said second post-processing device mixing said at least one first still image into a window at said second monitor, for video conferencing between said first and second post-processing devices.

6. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said camera is a digital camera.